



# Foggy Bottom News

July-August 1997

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 39, No. 9

## Egyptian Mission and the Exxon Station Misuse Lot

Anyone walking by Pennsylvania Avenue on the way across the bridge to Georgetown will have noticed the ugly condition of the lot on the corner next to 26th and L. This lot was purchased by the Egyptian military mission earlier in the 1990s from a developer who had proposed to build townhouses on the site. What appears to be a hand-made sign on the lot states: "Property owned by A.R. of Egpt Defens office. Tel: (202) 462-5943."

The problem relating to the lot is two-fold. First, the lot itself needs to be periodically mowed so that it looks presentable and does not become rat-infested (whatever happened to the District's "clean it or lien it policy"?). The second problem is that the lower portion of the lot is apparently being used by the Exxon Station on the corner of 26th & Pennsylvania as a dumping ground for used and wrecked cars and a parking lot for towing trucks. An Exxon station manager

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Elections Scheduled for June Meeting

Elections for FBA officers and Executive Board members will be held at the June meeting, Monday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. Special thanks go to the Nominating Committee, chaired by **Charlie Clapp**, and committee members **Mary Brewster**, **Laetitia Combrinck**, **Mary Lou Hennessey**, and **Marilyn Rubin**. The committee has recommended the following candidates:

For President	Ellie Becker
For Vice President	Michael Thomas
For Secretary	Kirsten Lawrence Olsen
For Treasurer	Matthew Hall
For Membership Director	Polly Berman
For Executive Board Members:	Olga Corey, James McLeod, Lucille Molinelli, Richard Price, Jo Tucci, Marjorie Wheatley

**Ellie Becker**  
(President)

Ellie Becker, current FBA president, owns a home on Eye Street and has been involved with the FBA for over 25 years. She is also editor of the *News*, and oversees its distribution as well. She recently retired but continues her volunteer work at Holy Trinity Church and for the

Washington Volunteer Readers for the Blind.

**Michael Thomas**  
(Vice President)

Thomas, who has served on the Board during the past year, lives at 25th & M Streets and is president of his condo association. He is from Kansas, attended the University of Kansas, Harvard Law

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Linda Cropp to Address June Meeting

At the June FBA meeting, the featured speaker will be Acting D.C. Council Chair Linda W. Cropp, who now is a candidate for Council Chair in the citywide election scheduled for July 22. A graduate of Howard University, she was a District public school teacher and guidance counselor, and a member, vice president and president of the Board of Education. In 1990, she was elected an at-large member of Council, and has concentrated on health and human service issues. She is involved with the United Negro College Fund Advisory Board, Travelers Aid Society, Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital and Junior Achievement. Cropp and her husband, Dwight, an Associate Professor of Public Administration at GWU, have two children, and reside in Ward 4.

Also at the June meeting: election of FBA officers and Executive Board members, and a vote on a Bylaws amendment to allow fulltime students to join the FBA for reduced dues.

## FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speaker:

**Linda W. Cropp**

**Acting D.C. Council Chair**

**Monday, June 30, 1997**

**Wyndham Bristol Hotel**

**2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**

**7:30 p.m.**

*(Next Meeting, Monday, September 29, 1997)*

## UPDATE

### FB Residents To Testify on "Comp" Plan

The D.C. Council held two meetings in June on proposed amendments which have been submitted for inclusion in the city's Comprehensive Plan. Representatives of Foggy Bottom and other residential neighborhoods testified. Of special interest to FB residents were a number of amendments proposed by George Washington University. These were felt by ANC commissioners and others to "gut existing (protective) pro-

visions in the Ward 2 Plan of the Comprehensive Plan," according to ANC Commissioner Maria Tyler. The ANC presented to the Council a detailed examination of the amendments, rationale for the defeat of several, and alternate language for several more. Due to testify at a July hearing were ANC Chair Bernard Mozer and Commissioners Maria Tyler and Dorothy Miller, as well as FBA President Ellie Becker and Columbia Plaza Tenant's Association President Marilyn Rubin. Resident Barbara

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Be Sure To Vote!

### D.C. Election for Council Chair July 22

A special election to fill the post of Chair of the D.C. Council will be held on Tuesday, July 22. At-Large Councilmember Linda W. Cropp is a candidate for the post; she has been serving as Acting Chair.

City leaders, including Mrs. Cropp, are urging residents to vote at this special election to demonstrate citizens' interest in our local government. Take the few minutes necessary to vote for this important post.



## The Becker Beat



### Looking Ahead to #40!

When the *Foggy Bottom News* is next published, it will read "Volume 40, No. 1." That small phrase trumpets the 40th birthday of this newspaper, an accomplishment in which I think many of us can take pride.

The beginning issues were lovingly crafted and produced on a Mimeograph machine, on legal length paper crammed with news of this reawakened and charming neighborhood. Resident artists' work was much in evidence, whether depicting small houses, tiny gardens, pets as well as visiting animals and birds, and all manner of illustrations to brighten the well-written pages.

The look and content of the paper and the neighborhood have all changed through the years, but we cherish Foggy Bottom now as then, and the FBA and the *News* continue to work at keeping this the neighborhood we all want it to be.

This anniversary is worth celebrating, and we welcome ideas from far and near to mark the occasion. Join in with suggestions, reminiscences, photos, articles, letters, etc., etc. Let's make it a real community anniversary.

### Update (from page 1)

Kahlow also made a statement at the June hearing.

The hearings were before the "Committee of the Whole" and were chaired by Acting

Council Chair Linda Cropp and by Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans. Others attending the hearings were Councilmembers Hilda Mason and Sharon Ambrose. It is anticipated that a vote on the proposals will take place in the fall.

### FB Buildings in Federal Parking Ban Proposal

On-street parking near Columbia Plaza on Virginia Avenue, as well as two nearby government office buildings, may be threatened by a proposal to ban parking around buildings housing Federal agencies. At a recent hearing on the Government Services Administration proposal, FB and other neighborhood representatives appeared in opposition. ANC-2A Commissioner Sara Maddux testified as well as representatives from other areas of the city and business organizations. Both D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans have expressed their concern and opposition to closing the 700 parking spaces. In addition to residents, a representative of the D.C. Building Industry Association cited the current shortage of parking and the increased need which will result from the MCI Center and the new convention center. Mentioned as problems associated with the proposal are cutting residents off from their homes and local businesses, questions about whether it would really solve the security problems it seeks to correct, the shutting off of access to tourist attractions and businesses, and its effect on economic development in the city.

The GSA has listed Columbia Plaza and the GSA and Interior buildings nearby as possibilities for the program. The agency is deliberating several options: a business-hour parking ban; parking only for

law enforcement and federal employees, beefed-up technical and personnel security, or no action. The GSA comments phone line is 888-356-3409.

### FBA Supports GWU/UHS Merger Application

In late May, the Foggy Bottom Association filed a letter supporting the application of Universal Health Service's merger with George Washington University Hospital. The letter of support was sent to the D.C. agency responsible for examining the application, the State Health Planning and Development Agency.

Prior to FBA's sending the letter, FBA's Michael Thomas and other members of the Board had met with officials involved in the merger, and Thomas testified before the City Council on legislation on such mergers. FBA expressed the hope that "as the partnership fulfills its promises, we expect to see an improved and strengthened hospital in our community."

In a letter sent to officials of the hospital partnership, the FBA made a request that the Association have a positive role in the ongoing development and strengthening of the hospital, for a "continuing dialogue on issues" such as Columbia Hospital for Women (which UHS is seeking to merge with as well), and "for a role in identifying one or more community members for the appropriate board of the new partnership."

July-August 1997

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## Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor ..... Ellie Becker  
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin  
Ad Billing ..... Ilona Melstrads

To place ads, call Steve Timlin at 338-8750. Cost for classified ads is 60¢ per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column (or 4-inch high by 1-column wide) ad — the smallest available — is \$38.50.

### FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

c/o West End Library  
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Washington, D.C. 20037

October issue: to be distributed September 27

Copy Deadline: September 12, camera ready: September 19

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

### 1996-97 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President .....	Ellie Becker
Vice President .....	Chris Lamb
Secretary .....	Ilona Melstrads
Treasurer .....	Hugh Grindstaff
Membership Director .....	Polly Berman

Lucille Molinelli  
Olga Corey  
Kirsten Olsen

Richard J. Price  
Michael Thomas  
Sandra Vonetes

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From left:  
Kate Missett,  
Judi Sheppard Missett,  
founder of Jazzercise,  
and Shanna Missett

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**Election**

(Continued from page 1)

School and the Georgetown Law Center. He practiced law in the Army, in Alaska and in D.C., and retired in 1994. In Alaska, he served on the Juneau City/Borough Assembly, on the boards of several civic organizations and a national public interest law firm. He and his wife Sheridan Strickland volunteer at the Shakespeare Theater.

**Kirsten Lawrence Olsen**  
(Secretary)

Kirsten Olsen has been a member of the FBA Executive Board, and lives at 1010 25th Street. She is from Nashville, Tennessee, and with her mother, the late Betty Olsen, moved to D.C. to attend GWU. Her profession is broadcast journalism, and she is also active in the neighborhood as a member of the Swarthmore's Board of Directors. She likes photography, history, canoeing, and music.

**Matthew Hall**  
(Treasurer)

Matthew Hall has owned a home on New Hampshire Avenue since 1994, and formerly served as the marketing director for the GW Graduate School of Political Management. Prior to moving to South Carolina in 1996 to establish a residential mortgage company, he served as FBA membership director. While retaining an interest in the South Carolina company, he now serves as a marketing consultant for Metis, Incorporated, a D.C. communications firm, and is completing his MBA requirements.

**Polly Berman**  
(Membership Director)

Polly Berman, who resides

in the 800 block of New Hampshire Avenue, has served as FBA membership director for the past year and a half. She is the assistant director of the GWU Institute for the Environment and is pursuing her Ph.D. in strategic management and public policy focusing on the environment. Polly has great plans for this next year as Membership Director, and thanks each member for support not only in the elections, but in helping her build a stronger membership for the FBA.

**Olga Corey**  
(Executive Board)

Olga Corey is a longtime resident of Foggy Bottom, and now lives at Colonial Arms on 26th Street. Her career has been in both the public and private non-profit sector, specializing in communications, outreach and coalition-building. Formerly a staff member on Capitol Hill, Corey currently consults on environmental issues.

**James E. McLeod**  
(Executive Board)

McLeod has lived at FB's Pennsylvania House since 1978, following graduation from William and Mary and later from Vermont Law School. An attorney with a general practice since 1990, he earlier worked for CACI, Inc. and Westat, Inc. He was a candidate for the Ward 2 City Council seat and received 21% of the primary vote. Spare time occupations are tutoring at Stevens Elementary School, sailing and hiking.

**Lucille Molinelli**  
(Executive Board)

Mrs. Molinelli has lived in FB for 49 years, now residing on F Street on the edge of the GWU campus; she has long been a booster and defender

of our neighborhood, along with her late husband, Jimmy. She has been a member of the Board for several years, and is also active in the West End Citizens Association. A homemaker and mother, she also worked in quantity food service management and still enjoys the "art of food preparation." Her efforts continue for a safe and clean neighborhood.

**Richard J. Price**  
(Executive Board)

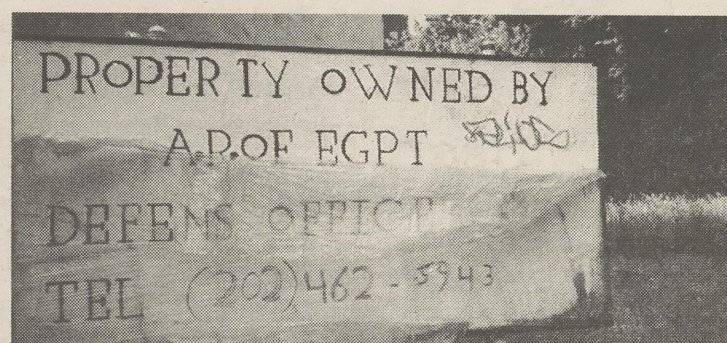
Richard Price is also currently serving on the Board, having formerly been FBA president and treasurer. A resident of the Westbridge at 26th & Pennsylvania, he hails from Cleveland, graduated from Johns Hopkins University, and works for the Congressional Research Service on health policy. A special interest is music, and in the neighborhood he works on beautification and transportation issues.

**Jo Tucci**  
(Executive Board)

Jo Tucci has lived in Foggy Bottom for the last 25 years, and is the president of her building's tenants association. She hails from Windber, Pennsylvania, and retired in 1996 from the Federal Transit Administration. Involved in activities at St. Stephen Martyr Church, she has served on the parish council and as a team leader for the liturgical ministers. She also does volunteer work at the White House, the Kennedy Center, and GW Hospital, serving there as treasurer of the GWU Hospital Women's Board.

**Marjorie Wheatley**  
(Executive Board)

Marjorie Wheatley lives at the Elise on New Hampshire Avenue, and prior to moving there she lived on 25th Street.

**Exxon Station** (Continued from page 1)

alleged that he had a business deal with the Egyptian mission to use the lot.

It is surprising that a foreign government would permit such a blight on a neighborhood in a high profile area of the District since it reflects so negatively on the foreign government's image.

In an effort to resolve the problem in a friendly way, residents initially tried reaching appropriate authorities at the Egyptian Embassy but could never get through. Finally, they contacted the State Department where an official was very helpful in informing Egyptian officials of the situation. They disclaimed any knowledge of a business arrangement with the Exxon Station or the condition of the lot, indicating it would be well maintained in the future. Shortly thereafter, mowing was started on the lawn but never completed. The Exxon Station manager told several residents at that time that all cars would be removed because his main concern is maintaining good relations with neighborhood customers. However, this is contradicted by pictures taken around May 15 and 16 which show "business as usual."



She discovered Foggy Bottom as an ideal location soon after she came to D.C. from Massachusetts. She worked for many years for the Agency for International Development and now is retired. An

activity she enjoys (it gives her an opportunity to see many neighbors) is working at the polling place at St. Mary's Court as an election official.

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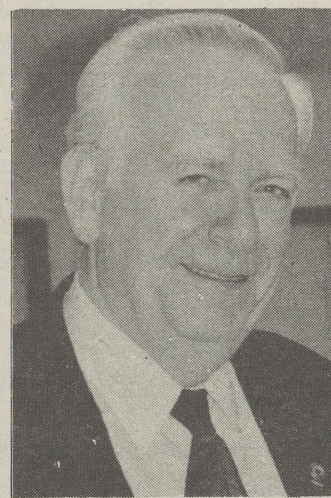


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## Puffenbarger Receives Double Honors

Charles Puffenbarger, resident of Eye Street and GWU journalism professor, this spring was honored by the *GW Hatchet* and by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Puffenbarger, "Puff" to all who know him, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the journalism group for "excellence in local journalism, especially his lifelong mentoring of journalists," both budding and established. One story related told of his advice to a *Washington Post* Metro editor

to hire an applicant named Carl Bernstein because "he's going to win a Pulitzer for you some day." Many of his former students are nationally recognized in the field, and he has been applauded by current students as well as one of the most liked and respected teachers on GWU campus. Puff was also the recipient just a few weeks earlier of a special recognition by the *GW Hatchet*, for his many years of advice and counsel to the student newspaper and its staff members

## Tired of Trash? Here Are Numbers to Call

If you are weary of unkempt or weedy neighborhood yards, either as an aesthetic affront or as a market devaluator of your property, or both, here are some D.C. Government numbers to call, with the responsibility of each noted: Trash or weeds in yards: 727-7673; one does not have to leave a name; just "concerned citizen" (their terminology) will do.

Or one might call 727-7605 to reach our neighborhood inspector, Frank Brown, for the same yard violations. (The 727-7673 clerk will put the complaint in a computer to be read by Inspector Brown.)

Public Space Violation (trash or weeds in tree squares, alleys): Mr. Day, Mr. Stewart, or Ms. Cherry at 645-6179 between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. or between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Condemnation Office (for abandoned, deteriorating houses): 727-7271.

Motor Vehicles Parked on Public Space or Otherwise Illegally Parked: 541-6060.

### Bulk Trash Pickups Reinstated

The D.C. Department of Public Works has reinstated its pickup of bulk waste such as furniture, large appliances, and mattresses. Collections from single family homes began in mid-June. The number to call to schedule pickups is 727-4600. According to DPW, the new program will give residents a specific day to expect the bulk materials to be collected. Items should be put out after 6:00 p.m. the day before or by 6:00 a.m. the day of the scheduled pickup. Items weighing less than 60 pounds can be set out with regular trash (often the second pickup day is preferable because there is often more room in the truck before the weekend rather than right after it).

## St. Mary's Flea Market July 18-19; Donations Welcome

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold its Flea Market on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, at the church at 728 23rd Street, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will be used to provide food for AIDS patients, as did last year's event.

As we go to press, Lorenzo Smith advises that a good supply of material has already been accumulated and is being sorted and priced. **Donations from the community are welcome, and may be dropped off at the church any day between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** Items of all

kinds are welcome, including clothing and other salable material. Donations of money and non-perishable food for the food bank may also be given to the church. Volunteers are welcome as well. Call Lorenzo at 333-3985 (10-2) if you need items picked up.

A special feature will be a treasure trove of musical items Lorenzo Smith acquired from his voice teacher, including sheet music (instrumental, classical voice, operas, etc.), musical instruction manuals, and out-of-print items.

## St. Mary's Court Plans September Sunday Brunch

Plans are under way at St. Mary's Court for its Third Annual Sunday Brunch to be held on September 28 at the Court from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. As in past years, this community event will include a beautifully catered brunch, music by Eddy McDermon and his orchestra, raffle prizes, a silent auction, and the opportunity to meet with old and new friends.

The purpose of the Brunch is to raise funds for the wide range of cultural, educational, health related and social programs offered at the Court to residents and interested persons throughout the area.

For information, call 223-5712. **There is a critical need for silent auction items. If you have items suitable for silent auction donation, ask for William Matthews.**

## FBA Members Exempt from Gelman Closing

GWU's Gelman Library, as of July 14, will be closed to the public, but Foggy Bottom Association and West End Citizens Association members will still be able to use the facility. In making the announcement, Jack Siggins, who heads the library, cited "limited resources" and "the ever increasing demands by GW and Consortium students and faculty." GWU enrollment has been increasing over the past several years and heavy use of the library by businesses such as law firms reportedly caused the decision.

Members of the FBA and WECA still may use the facility as in the past, merely by showing membership cards. Questions should be directed to Robert Kavalek, Gelman Library Building Operations Department Head, at 994-1315.

## Neighborhood Datebook

**Monday, June 30:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Acting Council Chair Linda W. Cropp as main speaker, as well as annual elections. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, July 6:** Concert, "Best of Brazil," featuring Brazilian Sounds of Alaor Macedo & His Band. Concert on the Canal, Foundry Mall, between 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets, N.W. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 9:** Book Review, "A Theater Near You," by Robert K. Headley, a history of motion picture exhibition in the Washington Metropolitan area. Members, \$5; non-members, \$7. Reservations requested, 202-785-2068. 6:30 p.m.

**Friday and Saturday, July 18-19:** Flea Market, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street, N.W. Proceeds to provide food for AIDS patients. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

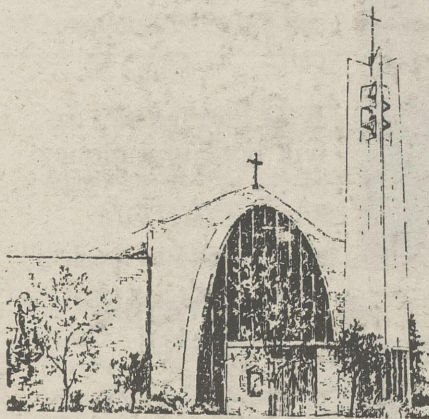
**Tuesday, July 22:** Election Day, for post of D.C. Council Chair. Polling places are at St. Martyr Church, 26th & Pennsylvania Avenue; St. Mary's Court, 724 24th Street; and United Church, 20th & G Streets. 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Through September:** "Temples of Amusement, Temples of Art: A Century of Washington Theaters." Historical Society of Washington, D.C. 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Call 202-785-2068 for information.

**Through October 6:** Exhibit of 17th, 18th, and 19th century case furniture (interior storage pieces which include storage containers such as drawers). DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. Call 202-588-7470 for information. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

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## Rev. Diana Ley Leaves United Church

On Sunday, June 8, Pastor Diana Ley preached her concluding sermon entitled "The Perils of Politics" at The United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. The Revs. Mary Brown-Oliver and Dr. Kwame Osei Reed officiated at the End of Ministry ceremonies. Following the service, the congregation hosted a luncheon in her honor in the church's Roth Hall.

Rev. Ley, who graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1979, is a native of Wisconsin and had previously taught high school English in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Her first parish was Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, and then Dumbarton Methodist in Georgetown, before she transferred to The United Church in 1989.

On July 1, she will commence her ministry at the Marvin United Methodist Church in Silver Spring, Md. Her parishioners will remember her fondly and wish her well in her new church family.

Before her departure, Rev. Ley organized the installation in June of historical plaques on both the United Church and the Union United Methodist Church buildings. The latter is currently leased to the George Washington University for its radio and television program.

## As We End Our Year . . .

As the end of another year for the FBA, it is meet, to use a wonderfully quaint expression, to acknowledge the contributions of many of our residents and businesses during the past year.

The Editor's special thanks go out to all those who contributed to the *News*: To **Steve Timlin**, who handled ads and advertisers, and **Ilona Melstrads**, who took charge of the ad billing most efficiently; to **Ilona** and **John Graves** for the counting and binding process; to **John Graves** and **Rennie Melanson** for their Columns; **J.R. Black** for his exceptional photographs, GWU students **Jen Binder**, **Jenifer Geiger** and her friend whose name I did not write down, **Kate Kennedy**, and "Q" **Golparvar** and others for helping with the bulk delivery. We greatly appreciated the route deliverers, **Janet Axtell**, **Mary Brewster**, **Anne Charles**, **Patrick Cody**, **Laetitia Combrinck**, **Jenny Lazowski**, **Jackie Lemire** and **Paul O'Leary**, **Mel Maeda**, **Ann Mikulik**, **Kate Clinton Mullen**, **Billie Press**, **Gail Raywid**, **Darrell Rumsey**, **Jenifer Seal**, **Michael** and **Sheridan Thomas**, **Don Tobey**, **Nori Uchida** and **Sandra Vonetes**. Thanks also to **Barbara Battles Queen** and **John Brewer** of Casillas Press and **Sterling Schiffman** of Silver Communications, all of whom turned words and pictures into a handsome (or so I think!) printed page.

And the most special thanks to the people and companies which advertised throughout the year, many of whom have done so for years. Their interest and support are very, very welcome.

We also thank **Bea Watson** and the staff of **St. Mary's Court** for being the receiving area for the paper each month, and for hosting FBA Board meetings; to **Barbara Kubinski** and the staff of the **West End Library** for its help in being our "mailbox," and **Diana Contento** and the staff of the **Wyndham Bristol Hotel**, the site of our monthly meetings.

There is also a group of people in FB/West End who have a difficult and most times thankless job, the six ANC-2A Commissioners. We thank them for their efforts. The Commissioners are **Michael R. Geroe**, **Sara Maddux**, **Dorothy Miller**, **Bernard Mozer**, **Jean Swift** and **Maria Tyler**.

And my thanks as FBA President go to the Executive Board members for the past year. At-large members were **Olga Corey**, **Lucille Molinelli**, **Kirsten Olsen**, **Richard J. Price**, **Michael Thomas** and **Sandra Vonetes**. **Chris Lamb** served as Vice President, **Ilona Melstrads** as Secretary, **Hugh Grindstaff** as Treasurer, and **Polly Berman** as Membership Director.

It was a pleasure to serve with them; they care deeply about the FBA and the wonderful neighborhood we call home.

*Ellie Becker*

## Have a Happy Summer!



### The United Church Die Vereinigte Kirche

A merged Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ & The United Methodist Church  
1920 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 331-1495

Sunday Services in English at 10:00 every week  
German Services at 8:45 on July 6 and August 31 only

Weekly Community Services: AA, NA, OA, DA, MA,  
Miriam's Closet, Foggy Bottom Food Pantry  
Pastoral Counseling & Consultation Center  
Pastor Gerhard Koslowsky, English and German Services

## The Foggy Bottom Diner

### Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria

*By Jim Patterson*

**Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria**, 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, is not just a Foggy Bottom restaurant, it is an institution for pizza and pasta lovers. Having a meal at **Bertucci's**, home to some of the finest food in D.C., is truly a memorable experience and exciting new dishes are certain to please diners.

**Bertucci's** dining concept brings together authentic Italian food with personable service, all at reasonable prices. The dry heat of the customized brick oven cooks at temperatures of 700-900 degrees which gives the thin pizza crust a deliciously chewy texture and a lightly charred edge. Diners may select from 21 different menu pizzas or opt to Create Your Own with mounds of 21 different toppings. Prices for large pizzas \$11.25 to \$13.45.

Although pizza is a specialty, **Bertucci's** is also a fine Italian restaurant with a varied menu. Appetizers and salads range in price from \$2.50 for the tasty garlic bread to \$7.95 for antipasto with chicken pesto, roasted peppers, cheese, tomato and mozzarella salad, roasted artichokes, prosciutto and eggplant caponata. New appetizers include a delicious shrimp scampi antipasto, \$6.95, and a tasty chicken allegro salad, \$6.25. Both dishes are superb, but the Diner admits a preference for the shrimp scampi which consists of 6 large shrimp in a lemon and garlic sauce served over a bed of baby spinach salad with roasted artichokes and grilled bread. This dish is heavenly!

Save room for the soup. Sausage soup and Tuscan minestrone, \$3.75 each, are served in hearty portions and topped with cheese. Diners may also select from 15 pasta dishes including rigatoni with tomato sauce, \$6.50, to linguini, shrimp and broccoli, \$10.95. The varied menu should please virtually any taste.

The menu also boasts 8 Panini sandwiches (plan or caramelized onion bread served with insalata). The sandwiches range in price from \$5.95 for a vegetariano, consisting of peppers, zucchini and artichokes, with romano cheese, to \$6.95 for steak and peppers—pan-fried sirloin steak strips with brick oven roasted peppers.

**Bertucci's** is not only for dinner. The special lunch menu offers menuccis, individualized pizza for one, Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Prices range from \$5.25 to \$7.25. Join the crowds at **Bertucci's** today!

This is my last column for the summer so until fall, keep eating at your favorite Foggy Bottom restaurants!



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## The Local Kaleidoscope

by John Graves

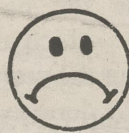
Like growing tomatoes in Foggy Bottom, sidewalk repair and street construction are frustrating enterprises. Most people will agree that the streets at 24th and H are in bad shape. It began with the construction of the Western Presbyterian church at 24th and G where the streets and trees have never quite been restored to their previous condition. Now the new GW dorm at 24th and H has equally destroyed trees, sidewalks, and streets. Trees and sidewalks will be replaced, naturally, but the street and curbing restoration extends only 18 INCHES! Manholes were connected for water and other utilities and temporarily covered with those noisy heavy steel plates—awaiting the appearance of the city to make the connection, which is usually an indefinite date. To mollify complaints about the noise, the Sigal Superintendent, Don Saunders, removed the steel plates and refilled the hole temporarily. When the city reported it was ready, the entire hole was excavated again, shored up and connections made. One neighbor complained about the fire hydrant being hidden; indeed it was behind a fence! Moreover, there were trucks, portable toilets, huge dumpsters and heavy equipment parked in front of the fence (the site of last year's tomato patch). It has been difficult to walk, much less drive at the intersection of 24th and H for the past year, and the roadway is a mess.

That did not deter the crews with the machines that paint the white lines at that intersection. The fire plug was reported to the D.C. building construction inspection office numerous times, but no one showed. The illegal parking was reported on many occasions, yet the area

was crowded with pick-up trucks and other construction vehicles. But that painting crew was on the spot with all the accoutrements of their trade and went about their painting with alacrity as if they had been dispatched by the Mayor's office.

Everyone was surprised! Most folks laughed to see the wasted paint on this chopped up street where the wheels of the painting machine had difficulty keeping level. The next day most of the new paint had the appearance of years of wear with mud, gravel, oil, grease and tire marks of heavy machinery wearing it away. But we have yet to speak to Mr. Jenkins, District Chief of Highway Construction, although he did return a call when we were away from our phone. We understand he is now "wearing two hats" since the department has been downsized.

On the east sidewalk of 24th between H and the "Eye Street Mall" there are a few potholes, and an entire section broken up which makes walking difficult and wheelchairs dangerous. Logic told us that a request from the District was futile, so we enlisted the good services of one of the concrete trucks to save a wheelbarrow load at the end of the day—which would be dumped anyway. The patch was a bit unsmooth, but it was some improvement. At the north end of the block we spotted another truck unloading concrete at the new GW Campus Information Map pylon. The driver told me it was impossible for them to use a few shovels to patch some of the other holes, because "... everything in D.C. needs a permit. ..." Wait til those permit folks find out about that wheelbarrow load of concrete just 75 feet south!



### Frowns to Above; Smiles to Come

The street painting crew and that concrete truck driver get a frown instead of a smile. But wait till you hear the rest of the story. A smile is in store.

The next day, Saturday, while walking to the Foggy Bottom Metro, we saw two men with clipboards, measuring tapes, and a wheel marking lines on the walk, at the precise spot of the GW pylon. What good fortune! They were from the D.C. Highway Construction office and gave me all sorts of good news. It was overwhelming! Yes, 24th Street will be paved—sidewalks, ramps, curbs, and all—from G Street to the "Eye Street Mall," and they continued with the good news that H Street would be paved from 23rd west to New Hampshire. It should begin in about two months. They gave me their cards and told me that John Flemming was the man with the figures. He is the D.C. Area Highway Engineer. We have spoken. He suggested the work might begin in the late fall. Today, after looking at the real calendar he said we better look toward the first of the year. He is a very candid gentleman and we in Foggy Bottom should be happy. He also gave us another surprise: G Street will be paved from 17th Street to Virginia Avenue sometime in 1998!

### Pay Their Fair Share

My purpose in this pursuit was to see that all those

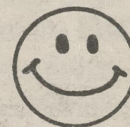
responsible pay their fair share in the repair, reconstruction, and replacement of any public property they destroyed or damaged in the construction of the Western Presbyterian Church or the GW dormitory. Tompkins Construction and the church did patch work only on the street; it remains to this day. One tree was damaged so badly that it is dead and should be replaced. They should be expected to pay their share. Likewise on the GW dorm site, Sigal and GW are obligated only to replace 18 INCHES of the damaged streets at 24th & H. That seems like a picayunish bit of asphalt. What about the visible damage on the remainder of the streets? Bummer!

Today our hopes for more were dampened when we learned of the sudden departure of a good friend and good neighbor, Dan Saunders, who has been Superintendent of the Sigal construction project.

His departure is Sigal's loss, GW's misfortune, and the Foggy Bottom community has lost a great advocate. He was a pro. He served his contractor, the customer, and tried diplomatically to be a good neighbor. Don was a personable gentleman. We intend to continue our friendship with his family.

However, today our spirits were buoyed when Bill Beck, D.C. Horticulturist for Trees and Landscaping, assured us he would keep his eyes on the tree problem. And John Flemming gave us a lift with his reassuring forecast on the area highway construction. Mr. Jenkins is the Chief District Highway Construction. We are convinced that these gentlemen are

dedicated public servants who can be found at their posts at 7:00 a.m., sometimes earlier! Incidentally, the two young engineers with the clipboards are Levi Udeh and Clement Ogunsulire, courteous young men from Nigeria who know their work.



Foggy Bottom residents are indeed fortunate to look toward smooth streets, and sidewalks, with beautiful shade trees. All we ask is that those who made the area ugly pay their fair share in restoring beauty and comfort—indeed safety.

### Museum Bus Route Includes Kennedy Center

A shuttle bus service which visits 23 District museums and attractions has started again for the summer season. The Kennedy Center is one of the stops, and five buses circle the route from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A one-day pass costs \$5, five- and 25-day passes are available, and include free admission to museums which charge and a discount at shops and restaurants. Passes are sold at museum shops and at TICKETplace (202-TICKETS). Call 202-588-7470 for information.

### Postmenopausal Women Needed

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## 'Unseen Neighbor' Is Student and Artist

By William DeCosta

It is a pleasure to meet someone who works through adversity and concentrates on accomplishing something



positive. What they accomplish need not be earth-shaking, nor anything we especially care to do ourselves, but when they persevere, their efforts become hopeful, immediate, full of life. Donald J. Roots, an "unseen neighbor," is such a person.

Although Donald is homeless, he is also an active artist. It has been about three years, he says, since his last permanent address got away from him. Currently, he sleeps at a shelter but previously—and for quite some time—he resided "en plein air" near the Ellipse and the Red Cross Building. While having his share of setbacks, he doesn't dwell on them, at least not in conversations I've shared with him. I work at a public library where Donald would occasionally stop by for a chat but

more often to draw and sketch quietly. He is lost in his art work, not in the clock. As for myself, I've always found him civil and considerate, not one to burden others with his problems or exhibit outlandish behavior.

His enjoyment of art is complete: "I've always loved art. Beautiful colors fascinated me even as a small child," he once remarked. On another occasion he was heard to say calmly, "I never lost my technique as an artist."

Donald is not comfortable about giving or receiving advice on one's own style of art. He prefers not to copy other artists, nor have others copy him. Apparently, he has felt this way since high school



Roots' portrait of William DeCosta

days at McKinley, where he graduated in 1957.

He does portraits in oil, watercolor and crayon, on various surfaces, such as can-

vas, wood or paper, even cardboard. When asked to do a portrait, he works from a color snapshot. The results are often engaging, thoroughly individualistic and accurate by his own interpretative skill. Broadly speaking, I might describe his style as urban folk art. There is also a suggestion of caricature but not of the sort that is unkind or unpleasant. His fees are most reasonable.

During the past three years Donald has attended an artist's and writer's class specifically for the homeless. The class meets regularly at Miriam's Kitchen operating in the basement of Western Presbyterian Church, 24th and Virginia Avenue, N.W. Exhibits are held there;

## Betty's Box



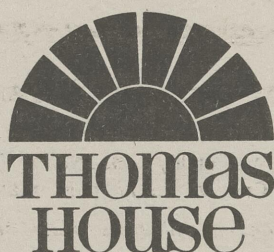
Betty's favorite compliment (given by a friend): "The better I know you, the more I like you!"

visitors are welcome. Those interested should contact the class instructor, Mrs. Sylvia Van Voorthuizen (703-734-0731), or Mr. Greg Hill (202-452-8926), a Vista worker also connected with the program.

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## Williams Reports on D.C. Citizens' Budget Experimental Program

On June 11, 1997, Anthony A. Williams, the Chief Financial Officer of D.C. reported to D.C. civic associations the results of a novel experiment his office had inaugurated: the **Tough Choices Budget Model Exercise**. A goodly cross-section of D.C. citizens met in focus groups, prioritized the 1998 budget and made the choices for a balanced 1998 budget.

**Citizens' Budget Choices:** The aim was to have a balanced 1998 budget. So the individual focus groups and the final reconciliation group had to keep expenditures to \$3,317,000—the projected 1998 D.C. revenues.

The final Citizens' Budget differed substantially from the Mayor's proposal in four broad areas. Two are mainly in the Mayor's control: "Government Direction and Support"—which is mainly administration, payroll and personnel—and "Economic Development and Regulation." The other two are "Public Safety and Justice"—mainly police and courts—and "Public Education."

The citizen groups took about \$45 million from the two Mayor's areas and used them mainly to reduce the large cuts the Mayor's budget

had made in the Public Safety and Justice area, as well as in Public Education.

The citizen groups cut the administrative area of "Government Direction and Support" from \$93 to \$78 million. The "Economic Development and Regulation" total was cut even more spectacularly, from the Mayor's budgeted \$59 million down to \$31 million.

The main reasons for reducing administrative overhead and economic development and regulation were inefficiency, questionable management and duplication among agencies—the citizen groups did not want to fund what were known to be inefficiently run operations, or they proposed consolidation of operations for relatively small offices with high individual overheads. For example, in the administrative area they proposed consolidating the Office of Campaign Finance with the Board of Elections and Ethics; the outsourcing of the Management of Land, Leases, Vehicles and Telecommunications; contracting out payroll and benefit administration; a substantial cut in the Mayor's personal staff, etc. However, in contrast to the Mayor's proposed 10% reduction of

the D.C. Council's budget, the citizens pared it down only by 5%.

Most of the money saved by this exercise was reallocated to public safety and to education. The mayor's 1998 budget figure for Public Safety and Justice was \$946 million—down \$48 million from the 1997 figure of \$994 million. The Citizens' Budget, while still reflecting a cut from 1997, increased the 1998 total to \$972 million. This went mainly for police officers' pay increases, and for restoring Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the 1997 level.

The Mayor's 1998 budget had also proposed a \$22 million cut in the Public Education system, to \$602 million, down from this year's \$624 million. The citizens increased the education budget to \$628 million.

The citizen groups also developed a substantial citywide savings by recommending a merit pay increase, as opposed to automatic within-grade step pay increases.

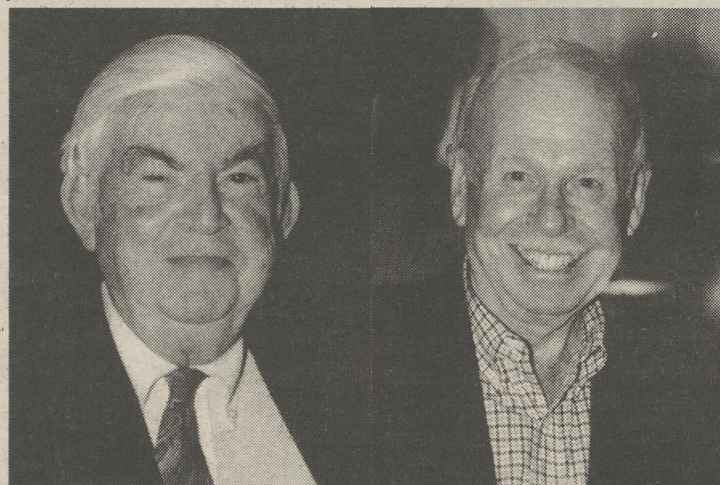
You can obtain copies of the extensive **Citizens' Budget** by calling Ms. Denise Reed of Mr. Williams' office at 727-0379.

Most of the meeting attendees agreed with Mr. Williams' final assessment: **We've now got spending under control, but we're still not spending well.** But this requires further seriously overdue basic changes in many D.C. government goals, in management and management philosophy.

### You're Invited—July 18 to KenCen

The Kennedy Center has invited FB residents for a special tour of the Concert Hall renovation project at 5:30 p.m., Friday, July 18. Lawrence Wilker, KenCen president, will introduce the tour, and all are invited to stay for the 6:00 p.m. Millennium performance and refreshments.

### At the May FBA Reception



Photos by J.R. Black

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